

## South-West *Build Wisconsin* Regional Workshop Small Group Record

Small Group Green (color)

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### **Top 10 responses to the question: “What can the State do to foster economic growth in your region?”**

Priority response #1 (votes: 7) Offer a program for partial percent of college loan forgiveness to students who stay in Wisconsin.

Priority response #2 (votes: 6) Investor networks. Low-tech states can assist and we can partner as a region.

Priority response #3 (votes: 5) Retain TIF program and infrastructure grant program.

Priority response #4 (votes: 4) Entrepreneurship programs through school system—to keep good ideas and businesses in Wisconsin.

Priority response #5 (votes: 4) Focus financial assistance more on existing businesses in order to help them expand.

Priority response #6 (votes: 3) Better utilize existing businesses to help “cheerlead” for doing business in the area.

Priority response #7 (votes: 3) Lower the cost of doing business in Wisconsin.

Priority response #8 (votes: 2) More funding programs for agriculture based business and technology.

Priority response #9 (votes: 2) Provide funding for major projects identified through regional plans.

Priority response #10 (votes: 1) Retirement attraction/Marketing programs.

## **“Actions Necessary to Achieve our Ideas” Exercise**

“If we want to accomplish this [priority issue #1], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

### **Priority Issue #1 Develop programs/policies to sell the state of Wisconsin to college/tech graduates—including a partial tuition loan forgiveness program for students who stay or move to Wisconsin.**

Responses to the question: “If we want to accomplish this [priority issue], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

\*Include or add a (10%) in-state (15%) out-of-state tuition fee increase and place funds in a trust that would be used to fund a partial forgiveness of loan repayment to either students who stay in Wisconsin to work or move here to work..

\*In the students’ junior year, the state could provide information (specific occupations) on benefits and opportunities available in Wisconsin.

\*Provide a state web site that provides cost of living comparison for various parts of the country.

\*Another way to finance tuition reimbursement programs is to form a foundation (501c3) to receive bank CRA dollars or other private contributions to also help support it.

\*Provide tax benefits/credits to businesses who hire Wisconsin system graduates.

\* Evaluate idea (tuition reimbursement) to measure cost/benefits based on income tax generated on additional students.

\*Provide list of expected college degrees from each university to Wisconsin businesses to help facilitate placement.

\*Do a better job of enhancing internship opportunities in Wisconsin for college students.

\*Colleges should have incentive not only to place students in jobs but to place students in Wisconsin jobs.

## **“Actions Necessary to Achieve our Ideas” Exercise**

“If we want to accomplish this [priority issue #2], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

### **Priority Issue #2 Create investor networks and funding for the region.**

Responses to the question: “If we want to accomplish this [priority issue], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

\*Sponsor regional workshops on how to establish investor networks.

\*Identify qualified managers to help with oversight of the business.

\*State could help write guidelines on how to set up.

\*Set up a statewide non-profit organization (501c3) that can accept donations.

\*State could pass information on to regional agencies the area businesses that are for sale.